

ESTHER
ORATORIO

ESTHER

AN

ORATORIO

OR

SACRED DRAMA

ESTHER

IN

ORATORIO

OR

SACRED DRAMA.

ESTHER,
ORATORIO;
SACRED DRAMA.

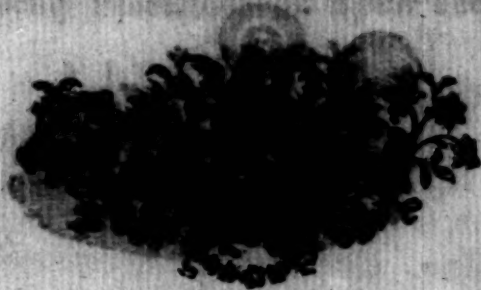
As it is Performed

At the KING'S THEATRE in the Hay-Market.

The Musick formerly Compos'd by Mr. HANDEL,
and now Revised by him, with several ADDITIONS.

The Additional Words by Mr. HUTCHINGS.

THE FOURTH EDITION.



L O N D O N:

Printed and Sold by T. WOOD, in *Little-Britain*, and at the King's
Theatre in the *Hay-Market*. MDCCXXIII.

[Price One Shilling.]

Dramatis Personæ.

ASSUERUS.

ESTHER.

First Israelite Woman, Confident to Esther.

MARDICAL.

First Israelite.

Second Israelite.

HAMAN.

The Music formerly composed by HANSON and now revised by him, with several Additions.

Chorus of Israelites.

The Additional Music composed by the Author.



LONDON: Printed by W. O. W. and at the King's

MDCCLXXIII.



ESTHER.

ESTHER

An ORATORIO.

SACRED DRAMA.

ACT I. SCENE I.

ESTHER, MORDECAI, and Chorus of
ISRAELITES.

RECIT. *accompanied.*

Esther. Breathe soft ye Gales, ye Rills in Silence roll,
And heavenly Peace reside in *Esther's* Soul.

AIR.

First Israelite? Watchful Angels, let her share
Woman. Your indulgent daily Care.

RECIT.

Esther. O King of Kings, Celestial Lord!
Whose Works our Admiration raise,
With Rapture shall my Lips record
Thy Majesty's immortal Praise.

Hallelujah.

RECIT.

B

[6]

RECIT.

Mora. With Transport, lovely Queen, I see
The Wonders God has wrought for thee!
Thy blooming Beauty he bestows,
To end dejected Zion's Woes.
The Lord of *Asia*, on his Throne,
Now languishes for thee alone,
And, by thy Empire in his Breast,
Judas may again be blest.

AIR.

*So much Beauty sweetly blooming,
Shall thy Comfort's Sout enslave;
In thy lovely Power presuming,
Ask him all thy Heart can crave.*

RECIT.

Again shall *Salem*, to the Skies,
From all her Woes triumphant rise,
And our avenging God, with Speed,
Captivity shall captive lead.

AN THEM.

*My Heart is inditing a good Matter, I speak of the Things that
I have made to the King.
Kings Daughters were among the honourable Women; upon
thy right Hand stood the Queen invested with Gold.
The King shall have Pleasure in thy Beauty.
Kings shall be thy nursing Fathers, and Queens thy nursing
Mothers.*

SCENE

[1]

SCENE II.

ASSUERUS, HAMAN, HARBONAH, and
Officers.

RECIT.

Assuer. Let me with Freedom thy Position know;

Thy Virtues merit all I can bestow.

Ham. O King, for ever live! — Thy Slave's Request

Flows from the Duty of a loyal Breast.

The vassal Jews, thro' all thy Realm, disdain

A due Subjection to thy gracious Reign;

They boast, their God will plead their Cause,

Restore their Temple, and their Laws.

Ah! would my Sovereign in his Slave confide,

I soon would humble their pernicious Pride,

Whose impious Ardour to rebel,

Captivity's too mild to quell.

Assuer. Go, settle, then, my Soul's Repose,

Avenge thy Monarch on his Foes;

Pursue their Pride with a relentless Hand,

And purge Rebellion from the tainted Land.

A I R.

Endless Fame, thy Days adorning,

Glory, brighter than the Morning,

Shall reward thy faithful Care.

Titles, all their Lustre lending,

To thy latest Race descending,

Shall thy Prince's Love declare.

B 2

SCENE

[6]

S C E N E III

HAMAN, HARBONAH, and Officers.

R E C I T.

Harb. 'Tis greater far to spare, than to destroy.

Ham. I'll hear no more, it is decreed,

All the *Jewish* Race shall bleed.

Hear and obey what *Haman's* Voice commands:

Hath not the Lord of all the East

Giv'n all his Pow'r into my Hands?

Hear, all ye Nations far and wide,

Which own our Monarch's Sway,

Hear, and obey.

A I R.

Pluck Root and Branch out of the Land,

Shall we the God of Israel fear?

Let Jewish Blood dye every Hand,

Nor Age, nor Sex we'll spare.

Raze, raze their Temples to the Ground,

And let their Place no more be found.

A I R.

S C E N E IV

ISRAELITES.

R E C I T.

Jerusalem no more shall mourn

In sad Captivity forlorn :

SCENE

B 2

The

The righteous God, in whom we trust,
Will be propitious to the Just;
To Rapture, then, your Voices raise,
And change your Sighs to Songs of Praise.

A I R.

*Esther. Tune your Harps with chearful Strains,
Moulder Idols into Dust;
Great JEHOVAH lives and reigns,
We in Great JEHOVAH trust.*

*2d Israel. Shall we of Servitude complain,
The heavy Yoke and galling Chain!*

A I R.

*Israelite Woman. Praise the Lord with chearful Noise,
Wake my Glory, wake my Lyre;
Praise the Lord each mortal Voice,
Praise the Lord, ye heavenly Choir.*

S C E N E V.

Enter MORDECAI.

*Mord. How have our Sins provok'd the Lord!
Wild Persecution hath unsheath'd the Sword.
Haman hath sent forth his Decree:
The Sons of Israel, all,
Shall in one Ruin fall.*

T O A

Methinks

Methinks I hear the Mothers Groans,
While Babes are dash'd against the Stones.
I hear the Infant's shriller Screams,
Stabb'd at the Mother's Breast;
Blood stains the Murderer's Vest,
And thro' the City flows in Streams.

A I R.

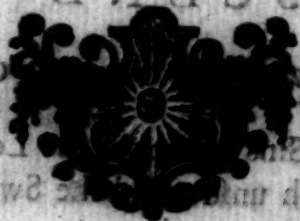
Mord. O Jordan, Jordan, *sacred Tide!*
Shall we no more behold thee glide
The fertile Vales along,
As in our great Forefathers Days?
Shall not thy Hills resound with Praise,
And learn our holy Song?

C H O R U S.

Yea Sons of Israel mourn,
Ye never to your Country shall return.

The End of the First A C T.

S C E N E V.



A C T

[H]

ACT II. SCENE I

ESTHER, and Chorus of ISRAELITES.

CHORUS

TRANTS *may a while presume*
They never shall receive their Doom ;
But they soon shall, trembling, know,
Stern Justice strikes the surest Blow.

SCENE II

Enter MORDECAI

R E C I T.

Esth. Why sits that Sorrow on thy Brow?

Why is thy reverend Head
With mournful Ashes spread?

Why is that humble Sackcloth worn?
Speak, *Mordecai*, my Kinsman, Friend,

Speak, and let *Esther* know
Why all this solemn Woe.

Mord. One Fate involves us all:

Haman's Decree,

To strike at me,

Hath said that every *Jew* shall fall.

Go stand before the King with weeping Eye.

Esth. Who goes unsummon'd, by the Law shall die.

Awake

Methodist I E N E A I R . H T C A

1st Israel. *Dread not, righteous Queen, the Danger;*

Love will pacify his Anger:

Fear is due to God alone.

Follow great JEHOVAH's Calling,

For thy Kindred's Safety falling,

Death is better than a Throne.

R E C I T.

Israel. Woman. O Heaven, protect her with thy tender Care,
And make the King propitious to her Prayer.

A I R Duet.

Two Israelites. *Blessings descend on downy Wings,*

Angels guard her on her Way:

New Life our Royal Esther brings,

Since our Cause she pleads to Day.

S C E N E III.

ASSUERUS, ESTHER, and Chorus of Israelites.

Assuer. Who dares intrude into our Presence without our Leave!

It is decreed,

He dies for this audacious Deed.

Hah! Esther there!

The Law condemns, but Love will spare.

Esth. My Spirits sink, alas! I faint.

Assuer. Ye Powers! what Paleness spreads her beauteous Face!

Esther, awake, thou fairest of thy Race;

Awake

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Awake and live, 'tis my Command,
Behold the Golden Scepter in my Hand!

Sure Sign of Grace;
The bloody stern Decree
Was never meant, my Queen, to strike at thee.

A I R Duet.

Esth. *Who calls my parting Soul from Death?*

Assuer. *Awake, my Soul, my Life, my Breath.*

Esth. *Hear my Suit, or else I die.*

Assuer. *Ask, my Queen, can I deny?*

Assuer. *O beauteous Queen, unclose those Eyes,*

My Fairest, shall not bleed,

Hear Love's soft Voice, that bids thee rise,

And bids thy Suit succeed. A

Esth. *If I find Favour in thy Sight,*

May the Great Monarch of the East

Honour my Feast,

And deign to be his Servant's Guest:

The King, and Haman I invite.

A I R.

Assuer. *How can I stay when Love invites?*

I come, my Queen, to chaste Delights.

With Joy, with Pleasure I obey;

To thee I give the Day.

[Exeunt.

Manent Israelites.

C

SCENE

SCENE IV.

1st *Israel*. With inward Joy his Visage glows,

He to the Queen's Appartment goes.

2d *Israel*. Beauty has his Fury charm'd,

And all his Wrath disarm'd.

Beauty will her Power maintain ;

What can Beauty crave in vain ?

A. I. R.

Esther. Heaven ! O lend me every Charm,

Rising Fury to disarm ;

May the Monarch's Bosom prove,

Tender Tears have Power to move.

2d *Israel*. The King will listen to his Royal Fair,

And own her lovely Prevalence of Prayer.

A. I. R.

God is our Hope, and he will save the King to see
to Jacob's Race.

God save the King ! Long live the King ! May the King live
for ever ! Amen.

Hallelujah.

The End of the Second A C T.

A C T

SCENE

C

ACT III. SCENE I.

MORDECAI, and Chorus of ISRAELITES.

RECIT.

1st *Israel.* **J**EHOVAH, crown'd with Glory bright,
 Surrounded with eternal Light;
 Whose Ministers are Flames of Fire,
 Arise, and execute thine Ire.

CHORUS.

*He comes! he comes to end our Woes,
 And pour his Vengeance on our Foes!*

[Exeunt,

SCENE II.

ASSUERUS, HAMAN, ESTHER, and Israelites.

Assuer. Now, O my Queen, thy Suit decline,
 Ask half my Empire, it is thine.

Esth. O gracious King, my People spare,
 For in their Lives you strike at mine.
 Reverse the dire Decree;

The Blow is aim'd at *Mordecai* and me:

And is the Fate of *Mordecai* decreed,

Who, when *Husham's* Sword

Sought to destroy my Royal Lord,

Brought forth to Light the desp'rate Deed!

Affuer. Yes yes, I own,
To him alone
I owe my Life and Throne.
Say, then, my Queen, who dares pursue
The Life to which Reward is due.

Estb. 'Tis *Haman's* Hate
That sign'd his Fate.

Affuer. I swear by yon bright Globe of Light,
That Rules the Day,
That *Haman's* Sight
Shall never more behold the golden Ray!

A I R

Ham. Turn not, O Queen, thy Face away,
Behold me prostrate on the Ground!

O speak, his glowing Fury stay,

Let Mercy in thy Sight be found.

A I R

Estb. Flattering Tongue, no more I'll hear thee,
Vain are all thy cruel Wiles;

Barb'rous Wretch, no more I fear thee,

Vain thy Frowns, and vain thy Smiles.

Tyrant, when of Power possess'd,

Now thou tremblest, when distress'd.

R E C I T.

Affuer. Guards, seize the Traitor, bear him hence,
Death shall reward the proud Offence.

To

[121]

To Mordecai be Honour paid
The royal Garment bring :
My Diadem shall grace his Head :
Let him in Triumph thro' the Streets be led,
Who sav'd the King.

AIR

Thro' the Nation he shall be
Next in Dignity to me;
All my People shall revere
Merit to their Prince
Daily to his honour & Name
Incense shall on Altars flame;
Whilst applauding Crowds, around,
Shall his deathless Fame resound.

CHORUS

All applauding Crowds, around,
Shall his deathless Fame resound.

AIR

Nam. How art thou fallen from thy Height !
Tremble Ambition at the Sight,
In Power let Mercy sway,

SCENE

When

Affair. Yes yes, I own
 To him alone *When adverse Fortune be thy foe,*
 I owe my life: *Lest thou by Mercy be forgot,*
 Say, then, my Queen, *And perish in this Day.*
 The Life to which he led,
 Who sav'd the King.

A I R.

Affair. *Esth.* I'll proclaim the wond'rous Story
 That Rules the Day: *Of the Mercies Artifice,*
 From the Day-spring's dawning Glory
 Till the fading Beam of Eve.

Mr. Wom. All the Blessings Heaven is sending,
 Well demand our grateful Lays,
 To his radiant Throne ascending,
 Wafted on the Wings of Praise.

In exalted Raptures joining
 We'll employ our happy Days,
 All our grateful Powers combining
 To declare his endless Praise.

A I A

SCENE

Hann. How art thou fallen from thy Height!
 Tremble Ambition at the Sight,
 In Power let Mercy sway,
 Death shall reward the proud Obey.

When

[19]

SCENE III.

Israelites with MORDECAI in Triumph.

Grand CHORUS.

The LORD our Enemy has slain,

Hallelujah, solo.

Ye Sons of Jacob, sing a chearful Strain.

Hallelujah, solo.

Sing Hymns of Praise, bow down the Knee,

Hallelujah, solo.

The Worship of our God is free.

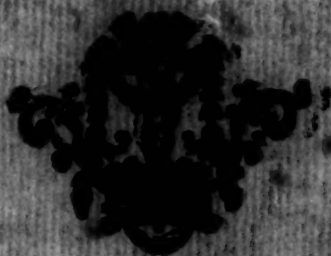
Hallelujah, solo.

For ever blessed be his holy Name,

Let Heaven and Earth his Praise proclaim.

Hallelujah.

FINIS



SCENE III.

Israelites with MORDECAI in Triumph.

Grand CHORUS.

The Lord our Enemy has slain,

Hallelujah, Solo.

To Zion of Jacob, sing a cheerful strain.

Hallelujah, Solo.

Sing Hymns of Praise, bow down the knee,

Hallelujah, Solo.

The Worship of our God is free.

Hallelujah, Solo.

For ever blessed be his holy Name,

Let Heaven and Earth his Praise proclaim.

Hallelujah.

FINIS



